

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /067 W

----- 025377

R 061428Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4838

INFO AMEMBASSYLONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 2994

LONDON FOR SCHAUFLE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SF, PINT, PFOR

SUBJ: BLACK LEADERS WISH TO MEET WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER

REFS: DURBAN 295, STATE 165670

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF TELEGRAM FROM COLORED LEADER SONNY LEON ADDRESSED TO AMBASSADOR, AMERICAN EMBASSY, PRETORIA, RECEIVED JULY 6. "REQUEST INTERVIEW ON BEHALF BLACK LEADERS WITH SECRETARY OF STATE DOCTOR KISSINGER TO OBTAIN BLACK VIEWS."

2. POLCOUNS TELEPHONED LEON TO VERIFY ACTUAL SOURCE OF CABLE, GIVEN OUR SUSPICION THAT IT MIGHT HAVE ORIGINATED WITH DURBAN POST (DURBAN 295). LEON CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD SENT THE TELEGRAM. HE SAID THAT DURING LAST FEW WEEKS HE HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN PLANNING FOR A NATION-WIDE MEETING OF BLACK LEADERS TO TAKE PLACE IN OCTOBER. HE HAD FOUND A GREAT DEAL OF CONCERN AMONG THESE LEADERS AT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SECRETARY MIGHT ACCEPT AND ACT ON INFORMATION PROVIDED HIM BY PRIME MINISTER VORSTER, WHILE IN FACT HE OUGHT EQUALLY TO BE

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INFORMED OF THE OPINIONS OF BLACK LEADERS IN SOUTH

AFRICA. HE HAD THEREFORE TAKEN THIS METHOD OF EXPRESSING AN INTEREST IN SUCH A MEETING, EITHER WITH THE SECRETARY OF WITH AMBASSADOR SCHAUFELLE, WHO WAS UNDERSTOOD TO BE PLANNING A VISIT IN THE AREA.

3. RESPONDING TO A QUESTION, LEON SAID THAT THE REQUEST HAD BEEN SENT WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND APPROVAL OF CHIEF GATSHA BUTHELEZI, INDIAN COUNCIL CHAIRMAN J.N. REDDY, AND OTHER LEADERS OF THE LABOR PARTY SUCH AS CURRY AND MIDDLETON. LEON SAID HE HAD ALSO DISCUSSED THE IDEA WITH LEBOWA CHIEF MINISTER CEDRIC PHATUDI, WHO THOUGHT SUCH A MEETING NECESSARY TO PROVIDE SECY KISSINGER WITH A BALANCED VIEW.

4. LEON WAS INFORMED THAT SECY KISSINGER HAD NO PLANS TO VISIT SOUTH AFRICA, NOR WAS SOUTH AFRICA ON THE ITINERARY OF AMBASSADOR SCHAUFELLE'S RECENTLY ANNOUNCED TRIP, BUT THAT MR. LEON'S INTEREST IN SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE REPORTED TO WASHINGTON. LEON SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO TRAVEL TO ANY APPROPRIATE LOCATION, SHOULD SUCH A MEETING BE POSSIBLE. BOWDLER

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